

REMARKS

Claims 5, 9, 24, 28, 39 and 41 are presented for consideration, with each claim being independent.

The claims have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art.

The amendments to the claims were not presented earlier as it was believed that the previously presented claims would be found allowable. This Amendment does not add any additional claims. Moreover, the Examiner's familiarity with the subject matter of the present application will allow an appreciation of the significance of the amendments herein without undue expenditure of time and effort. Finally, the Amendment does not raise new issues requiring a substantial amount of further consideration or search. Accordingly, it is submitted that consideration and entry of the Amendment is appropriate.

Claims 5, 9, 24, 28, 39 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Nishizawa '228 in view of Gecht '832. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 5 relates to peripheral equipment connected to a network and managed by a director server on the network. The equipment includes receiving means for receiving a control command for a job from an information processing apparatus on the network, first decrypting means for decrypting an access ticket of the peripheral equipment included in the control command, with the access ticket being issued from the directory server, and control means for limiting execution of the control command based on

decryption results of the first decrypting means. In addition, second decrypting means decrypts the access ticket of the peripheral equipment included in the job, with the access ticket being issued from the directory server. Claim 5 has been amended to recite that in the case where the control command is one for deleting a specified job, the control means determines whether or not the job can be deleted based on user information included in the decryption results of the first decrypting means and user information included in the decryption results of the second decrypting means.

Claims 24 and 39 are directed to a control method and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, and correspond to Claim 5.

Claim 9 relates to peripheral equipment connected to a network and managed by a directory server on the network, and includes obtaining means for logging in to the directory server based on information inputted from an operation panel and obtaining an access ticket of the peripheral equipment corresponding to the inputted information from the directory server, inputting means for, after obtaining the access ticket, inputting a control command for the job from the operation panel, and first decrypting means for decrypting the access ticket. In addition, control means limits execution of the control command based on decryption results of the first decrypting means, and second decrypting means decrypts the access ticket of the peripheral equipment included in the job, with the access ticket being issued from the directory server. Claim 9 has been amended in the same way as Claim 5 to recite that where the control command is one for deleting a specified job, the control means determines whether or not the job can be

deleted based on user information included in the decryption results of the first decrypting means and user information included in the decryption results of the second decrypting means.

Claims 28 and 41 relate to a control method and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, and correspond to Claim 9.

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, in Figures 20 and 21 and the accompanying specification on page 32, line 1, *et. seq.*

As discussed in the previous Amendment of September 5, 2006, the Nishizawa patent relates to a network printing apparatus that includes a print server 10, a job receiving unit 1 for receiving print requests, an acquiring unit 2, and an access control table 3. The Office Action also relies on Nishizawa as teaching deletion termination based upon decryption results.

Gecht relates to a system for providing printing services over a communication network, and is relied upon for teaching first and second decrypting means for decrypting an access ticket. In Gecht, a printed job may be encrypted at a print job source 10 and decrypted at a printer pulling device 100.

Neither citation, however, is read to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, determining whether or not a job can be deleted based on user information included in the decryption results of first decrypting means, which decrypts an access ticket, and user information included in decryption results of the second decrypting means, which decrypts the access ticket of the peripheral equipment included in the job. In Nishizawa, a job to be deleted is determined by reliance on the access control table, whereas in Gecht the print job is encrypted so that it can only

be printed by a person with the correct decryption key. The art further fails to teach or suggest use of an access ticket corresponding to inputted information or issued from a directory server.

Accordingly, the proposed combination of Nishizawa and Gecht, even if proper, still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Scott D. Malpede/

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Scott D. Malpede  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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